

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly

FIFTIETH SESSION
Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
52nd meeting
held on
Monday, 1 April 1996
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 52nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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(continued)

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A/C.5/50/SR.52
29 April 1996
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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 128: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE, THE UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENCE RESTORATION OPERATION IN CROATIA, THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE AND THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE FORCES HEADQUARTERS (continued) (A/50/696/Add.4 and A/50/903)

AGENDA ITEM 167: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (A/50/696/Add.4 and A/50/903)

AGENDA ITEM 168: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION FOR EASTERN SLAVONIA, BARANJA AND WESTERN SIRMIMUM (A/50/696/Add.4 and A/50/903)

AGENDA ITEM 169: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE (A/50/696/Add.4 and A/50/903)

1. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that he would not formally introduce the Secretary-General's report on the financing of the operations in the former Yugoslavia (A/50/696/Add.4) since it had been issued very recently, but would confine himself to summarizing the most recent relevant events and the measures to be taken in the immediate future.

2. With regard to Croatia, on 12 November the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (A/50/757-S/1995/951, annex) had been signed, and on 30 November 1995 the Security Council, in its resolution 1025 (1995), had decided to terminate the mandate of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), after an interim period ending on 15 January 1996. On that day, the Council, by its resolution 1037 (1996), had established the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), for a period of 12 months. With regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina, following the signing of the Peace Agreement on 20 December 1995, the mandate of UNPROFOR had been terminated and unified command and control had been transferred to the Implementation Force (IFOR) established pursuant to the Peace Agreement. Subsequently, the Council, by its resolution 1035 (1995), of 21 December 1995, had decided to establish, for a period of one year from the transfer of authority from UNPROFOR to IFOR, an International Police Task Force (IPTF) and the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH). With regard to The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on 30 November 1995 the Council, by its resolution 1027 (1995), had extended the mandate of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) to 30 May 1996. That operation had become an independent mission and would submit its report directly to United Nations Headquarters. On 15 January 1996, by its resolution 1038 (1996), the Council had decided to extend the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP). With effect from 30 April 1996 the functions of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Sarajevo would cease, and would be subsumed in the special arrangements to be established at the international level with the participation of, inter alia, the World Bank and the European Commission, with effect from 1 May 1996. The former United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) headquarters would carry out two missions: logistical and administrative support for the new missions, and

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administrative liquidation tasks for UNCRO, UNPROFOR and UNPF. As circumstances permitted, personnel and assets would be transferred to the new independent missions. The United Nations liaison offices in Zagreb and Belgrade would be maintained.

3. The General Assembly, by its decision 50/410 B, of 21 December 1995, had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for operations in the former Yugoslavia for the period from 1 January to 31 March 1996 in the amount of \$100 million gross and to assess the amount of \$89,484,800 gross among Member States.

4. The total cost of all operations in the former Yugoslavia for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1996 was calculated at \$490,308,700 gross. Those estimates were submitted in document A/50/696/Add.4 and also appeared in the annex to the report of the Advisory Committee (A/50/903), which also contained a letter from the Controller to the Advisory Committee and accompanying information. Non-recurrent costs represented a high percentage of the total, particularly in the case of UNPF, since the value of contingent-owned equipment was greater than anticipated. In the case of UNMIBH, UNTAES and UNPREDEP, the figures, intended to cover repairs to infrastructure and urgent maintenance work, were lower. Recurrent costs essentially related, in the case of UNMIBH, to the cost of financing the civilian police; in the case of UNTAES, to contingents, civilian police and military observers; and in the case of UNPREDEP, to contingents, civilian and logistical structures and other maintenance costs.

5. At the current stage the Secretary-General was requesting commitment authority of not less than \$140,194,500 through 31 May 1996, on the understanding that a detailed report by the Advisory Committee on the cost estimates would be available when the Fifth Committee met during the second part of the resumed session, in May. The figure of \$140,194,500 had been arrived at by deducting from the total cost estimates (\$490,308,700) UNPF non-recurrent costs (\$201,759,500, a figure that could subsequently be reviewed once more detailed information was available), June 1996 recurrent costs (\$48,354,700) and the current commitment authorization (\$100 million). As the General Assembly had approved an assessment in the amount of \$89,484,800 (decision 50/410 B), an assessment in the amount of \$150,709,700 was now being requested, making a total of \$240,194,500.

6. In paragraph 8 of its report (A/50/903), the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should authorize, at the current stage, additional commitments in the amount of \$100 million gross for the period from 1 January to 31 May 1996 for the financing of UNPF, UNMIBH, UNTAES and UNPREDEP, and pointed out that, should the General Assembly decide on assessment, the Secretary-General had requested an additional assessment of \$150.7 million for the period through 31 May 1996.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly

FIFTIETH SESSION
Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
53rd meeting
held on
Tuesday, 2 April 1996
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 53rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VILCHEZ-ASHER (Nicaragua)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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AGENDA ITEM 136: FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991 (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 160: FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE AND OTHER SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF RWANDA AND RWANDAN CITIZENS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE AND OTHER SUCH VIOLATIONS COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF NEIGHBOURING STATES BETWEEN 1 JANUARY AND 31 DECEMBER 1994 (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 136: FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991 (continued) (A/C.5/50/41)

AGENDA ITEM 160: FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE AND OTHER SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF RWANDA AND RWANDAN CITIZENS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE AND OTHER SUCH VIOLATIONS COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF NEIGHBOURING STATES BETWEEN 1 JANUARY AND 31 DECEMBER 1994 (continued) (A/C.5/50/54)

1. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that four months earlier the Secretary-General had submitted his report on the financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for 1996 (A/C.5/50/41), but that the relevant recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had not yet been received. The report estimated that the requirements for 1996 would amount to approximately \$40.7 million.
2. In December 1995, since the Advisory Committee's report had not been available, the General Assembly had decided to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the period between 1 January and 31 March 1996 in the amount of roughly \$8.6 million and to apportion assessments among Member States for that amount, so that the Tribunal could continue carrying out its important activities.
3. In the hope that the Fifth Committee would have the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in May, the General Assembly ought for the moment to authorize the appropriation of roughly \$6.6 million to cover the Tribunal's costs in April and May. The established practice was to finance 50 per cent of the Tribunal's costs from assessments determined in accordance with the scale of assessments for the regular budget, and the other 50 per cent from the available balance for peace-keeping operations in the Former Yugoslavia. Given the high amount of unpaid assessments, the question of apportionment of assessments should also be considered.
4. The Tribunal was at a very important stage in its activities, and steps must therefore be taken to finance it, even if the method was unsatisfactory.
5. With regard to voluntary contributions, more than \$6.3 million in cash contributions had been received to date. Also, States had made contributions by lending staff, who had provided indispensable services to the Tribunal in connection with the preparatory investigation of cases. Those extrabudgetary resources had been used to supplement the activities financed from the assessments, by paying costs such as those of witness protection and support and establishing a research library and electronic filing system.

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6. The estimates for the financing of the International Tribunal for Rwanda for 1996 were to be found in the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/50/54) and amounted to \$38.7 million. In December 1995, the General Assembly had approved the appropriation of funds for the first trimester of 1996 totalling roughly \$7.6 million, and the apportionment of assessments in that amount, which had made it possible basically to finance start-up activities.
7. In view of the fact that the Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the estimated expenses for the continued operation of the International Tribunal had also not been received, the General Assembly had to approve funding for the months of April and May. The estimates for those months included construction costs and the renovation of the Tribunal's facilities and detention cells, amounting to roughly \$12.3 million, a sum that was much higher than would normally be the case for a two-month period.
8. As to the financial situation of the Special Account for the Tribunal, unpaid assessments amounted to \$3.8 million. The assumption had been that the current funding system would be maintained, namely, 50 per cent of the total would be covered from assessments and the other 50 per cent would be transferred from the budget balance of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR).
9. Voluntary contributions had been received from some States in the form of loans of staff and in-kind contributions, as well as cash contributions to the Trust Fund in the amount of \$5.1 million, which would be used to fund specific projects like the witness protection plan and the leasing of an airplane for trips between Arusha and Kigali.
10. Mr. SCOTTI (France) said that his delegation was troubled by the fact that it was necessary to follow such a procedure in such an important matter.
11. In December, France had agreed to the authorization of an appropriation of funds for three months to finance the two Tribunals, but it had been hoping that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would now be available. Although it would not stand in the way of consensus, it regretted the failure of the Advisory Committee to submit its reports and hoped that in May the Fifth Committee would have before it all the pertinent documentation and would have enough time to review it.
12. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, since all that was required was the authorization of the appropriation of funds to cover two months of operation by the Tribunals, the Committee should take a decision in that connection at the next meeting on the basis of a draft decision submitted orally.
13. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.